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INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 1629  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE IMMEDIATE 3687  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 3080  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP IMMEDIATE  
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BISHKEK 000071

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/CEN (GORKOWSKI)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/29/2020

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [PHUM](#) [KG](#)

SUBJECT: KYRGYZ OMBUDSMAN BLAMES SECURITY SERVICES FOR ABUSES

REF: 09 BISHKEK 1331

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Classified By: Ambassador Tatiana C. Gfoeller, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) SUMMARY: The Kyrgyz Ombudsman for Human Rights Tursunbek Akun said in a meeting with the Ambassador that he was very concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in Kyrgyzstan. He asserted that the Kyrgyz State National Security Service (SNB) was responsible for the death of former Chief of Staff Medet Sadyrkulov, and also for recent attacks on journalist Gennadiy Pavlyuk, and Manas Airport President Bakyt Sydykov, among others. In a separate meeting, former Foreign Minister Askar Aitmatov gave a back-handed compliment to President Bakiyev for keeping the political opposition in such disorder. END SUMMARY.

12. (C) The Ambassador met with Kyrgyz Ombudsman for Human Rights Tursunbek Akun on January 25. Akun said that he asked for the meeting because he values the Embassy's support in his human rights work. He also said that he was very concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in Kyrgyzstan. Akun has served as Ombudsman since March 2008, and was presumably selected because of his strong relationship with then Presidential Chief of Staff Medet Sadyrkulov.

It's All Part of a Chain

13. (C) The Ambassador asked Akun for his views on the recent series of assaults on journalists. Akun replied that they are all links in a chain, going back to the death of former Presidential Chief of Staff Medet Sadyrkulov in March 12009. Echoing the suspicions of most of our interlocutors, Akun said that Sadyrkulov's death was not an accident -- he was murdered because of his contacts with the opposition, and because he had pushed President Bakiyev to cut his family out of the government. Akun said that SNB Chairman Murat Sutalinov, and ultimately Janysh Bakiyev, was responsible for Sadyrkulov's death. Akun said that they had also ordered the November attack on Manas Airport President Bakyt Sydykov

(who, according to Akun, was XXXXXXXXXXXXX injured far more severely than was publicly acknowledged), the December murder of journalist Gennadiy Pavlyuk, and several other assaults. According to Akun, Shtalinov keeps the SNB's hands clean by using hired thugs from Jalalabad to carry out attacks.

14. (C) Akun said that he was well-informed of Sadyrkulov's activities at the time of his death, because he was one of Sadyrkulov's three closest friends. Regarding Sadyrkulov's relationship with Oksana Malevanaya, the current head of the Presidential Secretariat, Akun said that they had been close, "if you consider having children together close." However, Malevanaya and Sadyrkulov had a falling out shortly before Sadyrkulov resigned as the President's Chief of Staff and left the government. According to Akun, Sadyrkulov opposed on principle the idea of setting up a Presidential Secretariat.

Sadyrkulov's Mistake  
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15. (C) Akun said that he maintained good relationships with the opposition, and for that reason, Bakiyev had asked him to broker a deal with Ata Meken following the 2007 Parliamentary elections. Akun said that Ata Meken honestly won 30 seats in the Parliament, but Sadyrkulov told him to go to Omurbek Tekebayev, the head of the Ata Meken Party, and offer him 12 seats. Tekebayev refused, and requested 20 seats, but before Sadyrkulov could respond, Bakiyev intervened, and decided that Ata Meken should not have any seats in the Parliament. Akun said that allowing Ata Meken to be shut out of the Parliament had been one of Sadyrkulov's biggest mistakes.

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16. (C) Akun said that he would soon send his annual report on human rights to Parliament, and that it would highlight the judicial harassment of political opposition members, and also discuss illegal actions taken by government leaders during the Presidential campaign and election. When the Ambassador asked him if the report would include everything that he had just discussed, he smiled, and said that he is just a man, and he has to survive to do his job.

He's Bad, but Good  
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17. (C) At a separate meeting, the Ambassador talked with former Foreign Minister during the Akayev regime, Askar Aitmatov, about the current state of the political opposition. Aitmatov said that the opposition was in complete disarray, directly blaming President Bakiyev's efforts to stifle it. In the same breath, Aitmatov complimented President Bakiyev for being a strong leader and, curiously, indicated that the political opposition also viewed him positively because he had so successfully consolidated political power over the country.

Comment  
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18. (C) Akun has a lengthy history as both a human rights activist and as a publicity seeker. He claims, with some truth, that he has been successful as an advocate for victims of government corruption and persecution. However, according to sources in the NGO community, Akun is not above selling his services to families in search of lighter sentences for their sons or daughters. Akun is more willing to criticize publicly the government's human rights shortcomings than any other government official, but he steers well clear of any criticism of President Bakiyev or his family in public. Akun sees himself as a bridge between the government and the democracy and human rights communities.  
GFOELLER

=====CABLE ENDS=====